In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 12 and 29, amend claims 1, 9, 19, and 30, and add new claims 38-46, all as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for generating a custom MBean, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean; and

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in a management domain; and

wherein an administration server handles attribute writes and MBean creation and deletion requests for sharable MBeans.

2 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended): A method for generating a custom MBean, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean; and

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in a management domain, ~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein scope of a custom MBean is a set of locations at which the

custom MBean is available, and wherein an administration server contains a copy of all sharable MBeans located in a management domain.

10. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein changes to an MBean are propagated from an administration server to all servers within the scope of the MBean.

11. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein applications and servers must go to a particular server to read a server-specific MBean.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein all MBeans residing on a managed server are stored in the managed server's local repository in addition to the administration server's repository.

14. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the scope is specified in the MBean definition file.

15. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the scope is specified for a specific instance upon creation.

16. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the scope is stored in the MBean information structure.

17. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein a request for a server specific MBean may be handled by any MBean server in the management domain of the MBean.

18. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, wherein accessing a server specific MBean is performed through a logical canonical server corresponding to a managed server that the server specific MBean resides upon.

19. (Currently Amended): A method for generating a custom MBean, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean; and

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in a management domain; and ~~The method of claim 9,~~ wherein when a request is received for an MBean not available on a MBean server, the MBean server calls a method that returns a list of custom MBeans in the management domain.

20. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the MBean server uses user-provided information including a provided object name pattern to qualify a search of the list of custom MBeans in the management domain.

21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the returned list of custom MBeans

contains a name of a MBean and a name of a server each MBean resides upon.

22. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein an administration server contains a list of server specific MBeans in addition to shared MBeans.

23. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the call to return a list of custom MBeans is configured to return all server specific MBeans in a management domain or a specific subset.

24. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the tag for each attribute includes name, package, persist policy, persist period, description, and display name.

25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the operation definition tag includes a sub-tag instance for each argument of the operation.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein attributes for the sub-tag instance are name and type.

27. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein a notification definition tag includes name, severity, and display name.

28. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein a local MBean server handles read attribute requests and MBean creation and deletion requests for server specific MBeans.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 28 ~~29~~, wherein an MBean Server Proxy routes read access to an appropriate server and MBean instance within the appropriate server and routes write accesses to the corresponding MBean instance on the administration server.

31. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein a custom MBean is accessed through a type MBean stub.

32. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 31, wherein an MBean stub provides a reference to a java object which implements an interface specific to the custom MBean.

33. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 32, wherein stubs are generated dynamically at runtime.

34. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein a factory model is provided for creating MBean instances.

35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein MBean delegates are derived from an existing MBean.

36. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein MBeans that are declared to be

persistent are automatically saved to a repository.

37. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein each custom MBean is stored in a separate file and is shadowed for failsafe writes.

38. (New): A method for providing a custom management capability over a management domain, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean; and

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in ~~a~~ the management domain; and

providing a custom management capability through the MBean over the management domain, wherein an administration server handles attribute writes and MBean creation and deletion requests for sharable MBeans.

39. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the management domain is a collection of distributed servers that are managed as a unit.

40. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the custom management capability tracks changes to MBeans throughout the management domain.

41. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein each server node has a MBean server.

42. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the custom management capability provides an API for providing management services in the management domain.

43. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the custom management capability can be customized by a user by adding schema attributes and extended persistence features.

44. (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the custom management capability is packaged as a framework with multiple MBeans which a security provider can extend.

45. (New): A method for providing a custom management capability over a management domain, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean;

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in a management domain; and

providing a custom management capability through the MBean over the management domain, wherein scope of a MBean is a set of locations at which the MBean is available, and wherein an administration server contains a copy of all sharable MBeans located in a management domain.

46. (New): A method for providing a custom management capability over a management domain, comprising:

receiving an MBean definition file in XML format;

generating an MBean jar file from the MBean definition file, wherein the MBean jar file includes a tag for the MBean and a tag for each attribute, operation, and potential notification issued by the MBean; and

placing the jar file in a predetermined directory within a managed server in a management domain; and

providing a custom management capability through the MBean over the management domain, wherein when a request is received for an MBean not available on a MBean server, the MBean server calls a method that returns a list of MBeans in the management domain.